

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, 15-21, 25 and 26 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuhiro (JP2001-320461) in view of Reference 2 (CN2400833Y, hereinafter '833 reference); claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Yasuhiro, '833 Reference and Tatsuya et al. (JP07064207); claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Yasuhiro, '833 Reference, Tatsuya and Masato et al. (JP2000089318A); claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Yasuhiro, '833 Reference and Masato; claims 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Yasuhiro, '833 Reference and Hiroshi (JP2001033851); and claims 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Yasuhiro, '833 Reference and Keral et al. (US 6,518,993). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner argues that Yasuhiro teaches each element of independent claim 1 except for the use of an optical diffusion portion disposed on the orthogonal side of a light emitting diode in a manner claimed by Applicants. Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill would not combine the teachings of Yasuhiro and the '833 Reference to utilize the diffuser plate of a camera taught in the '833 Reference with Yasuhiro's cellular phone.

The design of cellular phones requires that a lighting device be discrete at worst and not seen at all at best. Appearances of cellular phones is an important design criteria. The purpose of a cellular phone is first to function as a phone and not as a camera. Further, advancements in cellular phone designs require them to be as thin as possible. The present invention is intended to solve a problem specific to a cellular phone, i.e., to enhance the appearance (i.e., design) and to contribute to reduction in thickness.

For a general camera, the appearance of the camera is not degraded even when a xenon flash (a lighting device) is visible on the body of the camera. This is because the camera having the *xenon* flash is recognized as a high quality camera, and because the xenon flash is well known as a component of the camera. Therefore, for a camera, there is no demand for making the lighting device invisible or not seen.

In contrast, a cellular phone is a phone for conversation (even if the cellular phone has a camera function), and therefore the cellular phone is required to have an enhanced appearance (design). If the lighting device of the cellular phone is visible, the appearance of the cellular phone is degraded. Therefore, it is necessary to make the lighting device invisible, not seen, so as to enhance the appearance.

The enhancement of the appearance must not hinder the reduction in thickness of the cellular phone. In order to make the lighting device invisible from outside without hindering the reduction in thickness of the cellular phone, the present invention provides a technique using an optical diffusion portion (see, in particular, Embodiments 6, 7 and 9 shown in FIGS. 6-8 and 10-12).

In this regard, the optical diffusion portion has a function to soften the light, and therefore the amount of light may be reduced. Further, the LED (used as the light emitting device) emits a relatively small amount of light compared with the xenon flash tube. For these reasons, there is a possibility that the amount of light may be deficient.

Therefore, the present invention specifies the disposition of the optical diffusion portion so as to control the distribution of the amount of light. This enables a needed distribution of the amount of light to be obtained in a

simple manner without hindering the reduction in thickness of the cellular phone.

Accordingly, the present invention enhances the appearance (by making the lighting device not visible on the outside of the phone) and contributes to the reduction in thickness.

Applicants respectfully submit that the use of a diffuser in the '833 patent is not a teaching obvious to one skilled in the art for use in the phone of Yasuhiro since Yasuhiro teachings assert that an LED on the outside of the phone, visible to the user, is an appropriate means of providing a light. In fact Yasuhiro's design is meant to provide a bright direct beam of light that must be on the outside and visible and such use of a diffuser would limit this ability. Furthermore, neither Yasushiro or the '833 reference limit the visibility of the LED in a cellular phone and thus one of skill would not look to a diffuser to use in Yasuhiro to provide such advantage accomplished in the present invention.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the one of ordinary skill would not combine the teachings of the '833 reference with Yasuhiro to achieve applicants claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present invention are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least the above reasons Applicants respectfully submit claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, 15-21, 25 and 26 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to

conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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